

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 0593

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY AND TARNOFF FROM MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: US, SO, PGOV
SUBJ: MEETING WITH SIAD BARRE

FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS WHICH I PROPOSE TO USE WITH SIAD BARRE
WHEN I SEE HIM AT 9 P.M. I WOULD LIKE YOUR CLEARANCE ON THESE ASAP.

1. SINCE OUR LAST MEETING I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT
CARTER

AND HE HAS ASKED ME TO RELAY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

-- APPRECIATES THE COURTESY AND HOSPITALITY YOU HAVE EXTENDED
TO US AND THE WILLINGNESS TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO US OFFICIALS
OF YOUR GOVT FOR DISCUSSIONS.

-- WANTS TO REITERATE HIS DESIRE THAT US AND SOMALIA WORK TO-
GETHER TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND STABILITY IN REGION.

-- ASKED THAT I REAFFIRM THE WILLINGNESS OF THE US TO AID
SOMALIA ECONOMICALLY AND HELP PROVIDE THE MEANS TO GUARANTEE
THE DEFENSE OF YOUR COUNTRY.

2. THE PRESIDENT ALSO ASKED THAT I PRESENT OFFICIALLY ON BEHALF OF
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MOGADI 00593 211424Z

THE UNITED STATES A LETTER WHICH WHEN ACCEPTED IN WRITING BY YOUR
GOVT WOULD FORM A BIDDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS.

-- THIS LETTER DIFFERS FROM THE ONE WE DISCUSSED THE
OTHER NIGHT. WE HAVE TAKEN OUT ALL REFERENCES TO THE UN
OR THE OAU. WE HAVE INCORPORATED THE ASSURANCE THAT YOU
GAVE ME THAT SOMALIA WILL REFRAIN FROM FORCE AGAINST ITS

NEIGHBORS.

-- IN ESSENCE, THIS LETTER ASKS SOMALIA TO AGREE TO ASSURE MY GOVT ON FOUR MATTERS. IT ASKS THAT SOMALIA AGREE TO:

1. REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST ITS NEIGHBORS;
2. NOT USE US WEAPONS OR PERMIT THEIR USE FOR ANY PURPOSES OTHER THAN INTERNAL SECURITY OR LEGITIMATE DEFENSE OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC;
3. NOT TO TRANSFER THESE DEFENSE ARTICLES TO OTHERS WITHOUT OUR CONSENT;
4. MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF THESE DEFENSE ARTICLES TO THE SAME DEGREE THAT WE PROTECT THESE DEFENSE ARTICLES.

-- THESE CONDITIONS ARE NOT BURDENSOME. THEY ARE VERY SIMILAR TO OTHER ASSURANCES WE HAVE SOUGHT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES TO WHICH WE SUPPLY ARMS. THEY ARE A NECESSARY REQUIREMENT OF AMERICAN LAW AND THE CONGRESS INSISTS ON THEM.

(READ LETTER ALOUD AND PRESENT IT TO HIM)

3. IF SIAD RAISES PROBLEMS WITH CLAUSE ON "THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED TERRITORY OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC" SAY:
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MOGADI 00593 211424Z

-- THIS PHASE IS MERELY A WAY TO IDENTIFY YOUR COUNTRY FOR THE PURPOSES OF ALLOWING YOU TO USE OUR WEAPONS FOR YOUR SELF DEFENSE WITHIN THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

-- THIS PHRASE IS ABSOLUTELY NOT DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH THE BORDER ISSUE OR RESOLVE IT IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. IT HAS NO MEANING AS FAR AS SOMALIA'S CLAIMS ON THE BORDER ISSUE. ALL IT MEANS IS THAT SOMALIA AGREES TO USE US ARMS FOR SELF-DEFENSE NOT BEYOND THE TERRITORY WHICH IS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. WE SIMPLY WANT TO BE CLEAR THAT OUR WEAPONS REMAIN WITHIN THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AS IT IS KNOWN AND INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED. THE PHRASE HAS NO OTHER MEANING BEYOND THIS PURPOSE.

4. AFTER YOU ACCEPT THIS LETTER, THE PRESIDENT WOULD SHORTLY NOTIFY CONGRESS THAT HE IS DECLARING SOMALIA ELIGIBLE TO BUY US ARMS. AT THAT TIME WE WOULD PROVIDE THE CONGRESS WITH COPIES OF OUR EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. THE TEXT OF THESE LETTERS WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC (NOTE TO DEPARTMENT: THIS IS BASED ON ASSUMPTION EXCHANGE OF LETTERS SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED) BUT WE WOULD EXPLAIN PUBLICLY THAT YOU HAVE

ASSURED US THAT SOMALIA WILL REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST ANY OF ITS NEIGHBORS, AND THAT IT WILL NOT USE UNITED STATES DEFENSE ARTICLES OR SERVICES OR PERMIT THEIR USE, FOR ANY PURPOSES OTHER THAN THE INTERNAL SECURITY OR LEGITIMATE DEFENSE OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (DEPARTMENT NOTE: I PROPOSE IN THE PUBLIC VERSION

WE DROP THE "EXISTINGINTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED TERRITORY OF" WITH PRESS OR CONGRESS WE COULD PROVIDE THIS IN EXPLANATORY FASHION IF NECESSARY)

5. WHEN SOMALIA ACCEPTS THIS LETTER THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED THAT I INFORM YOU THAT THE US IS PREPARED TO IMMEDIATELY BEGIN THIS PROCESS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 MOGADI 00593 211424Z

-- IN ADDITION WE WOULD LIKE TO SEND A SMALL MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA TO MEET WITH YOU, YOUR DEFENSE MINISTER AND OTHERS YOU DESIGNATE SO THAT YOUR SECURITY REQUIREMENTS CAN BE DISCUSSED AMONG EXPERTS. THIS IS A ROUTINE AND NECESSARY PRACTICE AND WILL GREATLY FACILITATE OUR RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUESTS.

-- THE PRESIDENT IS ALSO WILLING AS A DEMONSTRATION OF OUR SINCERITY, TO IMMEDIATELY AUTHORIZE THE PROVISION TO SOMALIA OF DOLS 10 MILLION WORTH OF NON-LETHAL DEFENSE EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL BE OF

GREAT USE TO YOUR ARMY. THIS EQUIPMENT COULD BE SENT QUICKLY AND WOULD CONTAIN SUCH ITEMS AS MEDICINES, CLOTHING, HOSPITAL SUPPLIES, TENTS, POSSIBLY TRUCKS AND OTHER NON-LETHAL ITEMS. (NOTE TO DEPARTMENT: I URGENTLY NEED CLARIFICATION OF INTENT WITH RESPECT TO FINANCING OF THIS PACKAGE).

-- FOLLOWING THE SURVEY TEAM'S VISIT AND ASSESSMENT, THE PRESIDENT WILL BE WILLING TO REQUEST CONGRESS AUTHORIZE A SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL PACKAGE OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES.

-- THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE WILL TAKE TIME. IT CANNOT BE DONE OVERNIGHT AND WE ASK YOUR PATIENCE.

6. WE DO NOT HAVE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE SOMALIA WITH GRANT ASSISTANCE AND DOUBT WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN SUCH AUTHORIZATION. NEVERTHELESS, THE US INTENDS TO CONSULT WITH OTHER FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS TO ENCOURAGE THAT THEY ASSIST YOU IN SUPPLYING DEFENSIVE SECURITY SUPPORT. I WILL BE TRAVELLING TO SAUDI ARABIA TOMORROW TO CONSULT WITH THAT GOVT ON OUR DISCUSSIONS HERE. WITH YOUR CONSENT, I WILL ASK THAT THEY JOIN IN EFFORTS TO ASSIST SOMALIA, IN PARTICULAR TO EXPEDITE THE IMMEDIATE PROVISION OF ARMS AND TO FINANCE ADDITIONAL PROCUREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 MOGADI 00593 211424Z

7. THE PRESIDENT HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO RAISE WITH YOU ONCE AGAIN OUR VIEW THAT CONTINUED ACTIVITY BY THE INSURGENTS IN THE OGADEN COULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING CONSEQUENCES:

-- IT COULD PROVIDE A FURTHER JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF CUBAN AND SOVIET FORCES IN ETHIOPIA;

-- IT COULD PROVOKE REPRISALS AGAINST THE LOCAL INHABITANTS;

-- IT COULD BE USED AS A PRETEXT FOR AN ETHIOPIAN ATTACK ON SOMALIA;

-- IT MIGHT CAUSE CONCERN IN THE CONGRESS AS IT CONSIDERS SUPPLYING ARMS TO SOMALIA. I KNOW YOUR VIEWS OF THESE MATTERS. HOWEVER, MY GOVT FELT IT NECESSARY TO MAKE ITS VIEWS KNOWN TO YOU ONCE AGAIN.

8. DISCUSS PUBLIC HANDLING OF THE VISIT AND AGREEMENT.

-- HOPE THAT NO PUBLIC MENTION OF OUR OFFER TO SUPPLY ARMS OR YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF LETTER UNTIL I HAVE REPORTED TO THE PRESIDENT AND WE CAN BEGIN TO CONSULT CONGRESS. NEED THE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF YOU AND YOUR ASSOCIATES IN KEEPING OUR TALKS CONFIDENTIAL IF WE ARE TO PREVENT CERTAIN PARTIES FROM UNDERMINING OUR PLANS. THIS IS ESSENTIAL.
LOUGHRAN

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